

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03655 301239Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----007613 301242Z /40

P R 301145Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 2169
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 3655

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, MASS, JO, SA, XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH COURT CHIEF - KING'S TRAVELS AND AREA SITUATION

SUMMARY: COURT CHIEF SHARAF CONFIRMED KING'S VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT FOR JULY 6 AND JULY 9-10 RESPECTIVELY. INDICATED GOJ PLEASURE WITH RECENT US SPEECHES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. NOTED THAT ARABS AND JORDAN WILL BE UNHAPPY WITH HEAVY ATTENTION ON "NORMALIZATION" BUT ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT BALANCE NECESSARY IN US APPROACH. HE ASKED WHAT KING COULD DO FOR US IN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. TOLD HIM NEED FOR ARABS TO RETAIN FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR POSTURE BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AND TO CONTINUE NOT TO OVER-REACT TO BEGIN GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS. ALSO WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR JORDAN TO DO SOME THINKING WITH OTHERS ABOUT ISSUE OF "PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION" AND TO PROVIDE TO US VIEWS AND INSIGHTS AS RESULT OF KING'S VISITS. SHARAF SAID THAT KING HOPES CLEAR UP MONEY PROBLEMS WITH SAUDIS AND WILL BE TAKING OUR MOST RECENT HAWK SUGGESTION IN ATTEMPT TO DO SO. SAID JORDAN HAS NOT RECEIVED RABAT PAYMENT FROM SAUDIS FOR 1977, BUT HOPES TO GET IT MOVING. END SUMMARY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 03655 301239Z

1. SHARAF BEGAN CONVERSATION BY TELLING ME OF HIS AND KING'S GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH RECENT STATEMENTS BY ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING MODALE SPEECH, DEPARTMENT'S JUNE 27 STATEMENT AND ATHERTON'S OF JUNE 28. I POINTED OUT THAT STATEMENTS WERE BALANCED WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON "NORMALIZATION" MEASURES, SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI SECURITY AND ESCHEWING PRESSURE ON ISRAELIS. SHARAF SAID HE NOTED THOSE POINTS AND INDICATED THAT HEAVY

EMPHASIS ON "NORMALIZATION" WAS NOT RECEIVED WITH GREAT PLEASURE AMONG ARABS. I INDICATED TO HIM THAT HE MUST UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO BE BALANCED IN OUR APPROACH IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS. SHARAF WAS ALSO PLEASED BY NINE SENATOR'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT AND HAD HEARD VIS ISRAELI RADIO OF SENATOR JACKSON'S AND CHURCH'S ALLEGED UNWILLINGNESS TO SIGN. HE SAID THAT CHURCH MOVE DISSAPPOINTED HIM, BUT LAID IT TO THE SENATOR'S WISH TO ENCOURAGE A NTAIONAL CONSTITUENCY FOR HIMSELF FOR THE FUTURE. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT SENATOR HUMPHREY'S SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES.

2. NOTED THAT KING TRAVELLING NEXT WEEK AND ASKED WHAT JORDAN COULD DO TO HELP PRESIDENT. I SAID THAT CONTINUING TO ENCOURAGE ARAB MODERATION AND FLEXIBILITY WERE BEST THINGS. JORDAN COULD ALSO ENCOURAGE ARABS NOT TO OVER-REACT PUBLICLY AND MILITARILY TO BEGIN GOVERNMENT AND ITS STATEMENTS. JORDAN SHOULD THINK WITH THE OTHER ARABS ABOUT WHAT OPTIONS IT COULD COME UP WITH ON ISSUE OF "PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION" AND MIGHT ALSO THINK ABOUT HAVING THE KING SHARE HIS THOUGHTS, REACTIONS AND IDEAS WITH US WHEN HE RETURNS FROM CAIRO AND JIDDA.

3. SHARAF NOTED THAT KING IN PARTICULAR IS VERY WOORIED ABOUT PRE-EMPTIVE MILITARY ACTION BY BEGIN GOVERNMENT. I SAID I HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT ANDTHAT WHILE JORDAN HAD THE LONGEST BORDER WITH ISRAEL AND WAS THE MOST VULNERABLE AND WEAKEST OF THE ARABS AND ALSO WAS WORRIED ABOUT BEGIN EFFORT TO DISTRACT US FROM PEACE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 03655 301239Z

PROCESS AND PERHAPS TO TRY TO SETTLE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AT EXPENSE OF EAST BANK, OUR CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT WAS THAT BEGIN GOVERNMENT MOST UNLIKELY TO DO ANYTHING PRIOR TO OR DURING TRIP TO US. ARABS OF COURSE SHOULD BE CAREFUL IN THEIR MILITARY POSTURE TO PRESENT NO UNCERTAINTIES OR POSSIBLE EXCUSES FOR ANY ISRAELI ACTION. AFTER THE VISIT WE WOULD HAVE TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION IN LIGHT OF WHAT BEGIN HAD TO TELL US. SHARAF SAID HE AGREED WITH US ABOUT THE SHORT TERM. OVER THE LONG TERM, ESPECIALLY IF US POSITION HARDENED, THE DANGERS WOULD BE GREATER. MOST MEMBERS OF PRESENT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WERE ON PUBLIC RECORD ABOUT KEEPING THE WEST BANK AND SETTLING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION AT JORDAN'S AND HUSSEIN'S EXPENSE. HE THE CITED RECENT "NIGHT MOBILIZATION" MOVEMENTS BY ISRAELI ARMORED FORCES OPPOSITE JORDAN, FACT THAT 60 PERCENT OF ISRAELIS RECENTLY CALLED UP REMAINED UNDER ARMS AND LARGE NUMBER OF WEAPONS WHICH RECENT US VISITOR TO ISRAEL REPORTEDLY SAW POISED ON WEST BANK AND IN UPPER GALILEE AS WORRYING SIGNS. (HE CALLED CINC BIN SHAKER TO CHECK THESE POINTS AND THEN SAID BIN SHAKER WOULD PASS DETAILS TO DEFATT AMMAN). HE ASKED US TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE SITUATION.

4. SHARAF EMPHASIZED THAT RECENT PLO ATTACKS ON UNITED ARAB KINGDOM PLAN ALTHOUGH GENERATED BY DELIVERATE EGYPTIAN DISTORTION

OF PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS WERE INTERESTING IN INDICATING THAT PLO STILL GREATLY ON DEFENSIVE. HE SAID JORDAN STILL INTENDS TO EMPHASIZE RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIANS TO CHOOSE LINKS WITH JORDAN IF THEY WISH. THIS TOO, HE SAID, HAS GIVEN PLO FITS BECAUSE IT CALLS INTO QUESTION PLO'S RIGHT TO REPRESENT PALESTINIANS, ALTHOUGH JORDAN DENIES THAT IS WHAT IT HAS IN MIND IN RAISING THE POINT.

5. ON SAUDI VISIT, SHARAF SAYS KING HOPES TO CLEAR THE AIR AND REVIEW HIS THINKING ABOUT AREA ISSUES. IT IS CLEAR THAT KING WAS DEEPLY STUNG BY OUR REPORT TO HIM OF FAHD'S ATTITUDE FAVORING AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE ON WEST BANK AND HE WILL SEEK TO FEEL OUT SAUDIS FURTHER ON THAT POINT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 AMMAN 03655 301239Z

6. KING WILL ALSO COVER ISSUE OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT JORDAN. FOCUS WILL BE ON CLEARING UP \$140M HAWK PAYMENT PROBLEM. HE WILL TAKE WITH HIM OUR LETTER SUGGESTING A ROLL OVER OF PAYMENT UNTIL 1981. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE BILLING SAUDIS FOR SECOND HAWK INSTALLMENT AND ALSO REAFFIRMING TO THEM THAT IN MEANTIME WE WERE CONTINUING TO DRAW DOWN ON SAUDI FMS ACCOUNT IN US, AS THEY HAD AUTHORIZED US TO DO, TO MEET HAWK BILLS COMING DUE. JORDAN HAD RECEIVED NO RABAT MONEY FOR 1977 AND WOULD RAISE THAT TOO WITH SAUDIS.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN03655
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770233-1015
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977065/aaaaadqb.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7cca7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2125640
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH COURT CHIEF - KING'S TRAVELS AND AREA SITUATION SUMMARY: COURT CHIEF SHARAF CONFIRMED KING'S VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT FOR JULY 6 AND JULY 9-10 RESPECTI
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, MASS, JO, SA, XF, (HUSSEIN I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7cca7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009